

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 27828 251044Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 251037Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4608

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS' TIFF WITH FRENCH TELEVISION

1. L'HUMANITE AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REPS WENT TO SOME PAINS DURING GISCARD VISIT TO MOSCOW TO EXPRESS IRRITATION OVER SEVERAL FRENCH TV SHOWINGS BEFORE AND DURING GISCARD'S TRIP. ONE WAS EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PELIKAN, CZECH EXILED LEADER, WHO TOOK FRENCH TV
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AUDIENCES THROUGH 1968 EVENTS IN PRAGUE AGAINST BACK-

GROUND EXTENSIVE FILM CLIPS ON EVE GISCARD'S DEPARTURE. CZECH DCM HAD TOLD EMBOFF WITH GLEE A FEW DAYS EARLIER THAT CZECHS HAD PROTESTED PLANS FOR SHOWING THIS INTERVIEW AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING IT "SUPPRESSED." EVIDENTLY, FRENCH AUTHORITIES ONLY CHANGED DATE OF SHOWING.

2. SECOND PROGRAM, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE MORE OFFENSIVE FROM SOVIET VIEWPOINT, WAS ANTENNE 2 SHOW ON "LIFE IN MOSCOW." IN LETTER TO ANTENNE 2, MAMIEDOV, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO PROMPTLY COMPLAINED PROGRAM GAVE DISTORTED PICTURE OF USSR, PARTICULARLY CERTAIN REMARKS MADE DURING DISCUSSION IN WHICH PS NATIONAL SECRETARY ROCARD, SINIAVSKI, AND MADAME SAKHAROV PARTICIPATED.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY REASSURED ANTENNE 2 THAT THIS LETTER DID NOT REPRESENT CANCELLATION OF SOVIET COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ANTENNE 2. HOWEVER, SOVIET EMBASSY ALSO ADVISED THAT USSR COULD NOT FOR MOMENT RECEIVE AN ANTENNE 2 TV TEAM IN MOSCOW WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO FILM A PROGRAM ON SOVIET GERONTOLOGY.

4. COMMENT: IN CHOOSING TO CREATE ISSUE OVER ISOLATED FRENCH TV PROGRAMS DURING TIME OF GISCARD'S MOSCOW TRIP, SOVIETS ARE EVIDENTLY TRYING TO DOCUMENT THEIR CLAIM THAT ANY COOLING IN CURRENT FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS IS DUE TO "ANTI-SOVIET BEHAVIOR" ON PART OF FRANCE.
RUSH

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